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Inside this Issue:

- 1 ANSWER Facts and Stats for FY02
- 1 Dobson and Kennedy Join the ANSWER Team
- 1 CDC and GSA Partner for a Healthy State of the Union
- 2 ...and the Survey Says ...
- 2 Excluded Parties? "Inquiring Minds Want to Know"
- 2 Rights of the Government Under the Inspection Clause

ANSWER CONTRACT FACTOIDS!

1584 Task Orders
3.23 Bids/New Task Order
\$1.40B Funded Sales
\$4.52B Estimated Value

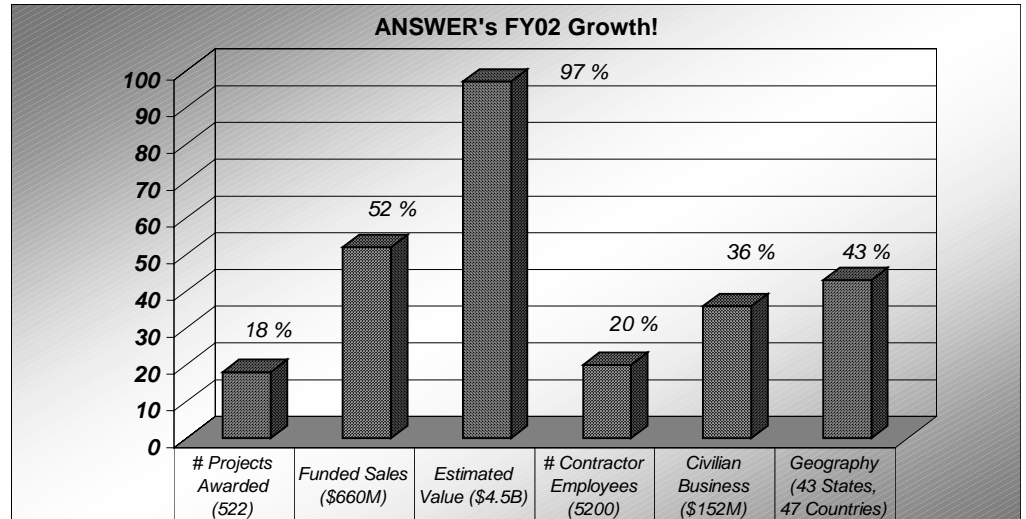
General Services Administration
ANSWER Solutions Development
Center

9988 Hibert Street, Suite 102
San Diego, CA 92131
858.530.3175
1.877.534.2208
<http://www.gsa.gov/answer>

ANSWER Facts and Stats for FY02

Sherrie Householder

Performance and growth are the operative words for ANSWER's FY02! Percentage increases are everywhere; in the number of task orders, in sales, in estimated value, in the number of contractor employees, even in geography.



Support to clients characterized by professionalism, "know-how", and responsive client service continues to set FTS apart from others. The right solution for the right challenge, couched in the environment of competition, creates the ultimate "win" for government and for the taxpayer. Here's to a bright and exciting FY03!

Dobson and Kennedy Join the ANSWER Team

Bill Archambeault

On October 21st, the ANSWER SDC Team welcomed two new Contracting Officers, Wayne Dobson and Paul Kennedy.



Wayne Dobson



Paul Kennedy

Wayne Dobson, who comes to the ANSWER SDC from the Department of Veteran's Affairs in the San Francisco Bay Area, has nearly two decades of contracting and finance experience. In addition to his extensive acquisition and financial analysis background, Dobson is a proficient web-master and public speaker. As a former Army officer, he is knowledgeable of the DoD environment and is attuned to military operations and acquisition strategies.

Paul Kennedy hails from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in San Diego. As a Special Assistant for Claims, Kennedy acquired a wealth of knowledge in the contract disputes and Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) arenas.

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CDC and GSA Partner for a Healthy State of the Union

Jill Schillinger

Responding quickly to public health threats such as bio-terrorism and outbreaks of emerging infectious diseases is the impetus behind the design and implementation of the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NEDSS). The system brings with it improved information management and the enhancement of numerous surveillance systems. When completed, the NEDSS will electronically integrate and link a wide variety of surveillance activities. It will also facilitate more accurate and timely reporting of disease information to the CDC, state, and local health departments.

Valerie Kalscheur of Region 4 is the Information Technology Manager who has been instrumental in providing project management and supporting the CDC in this initiative. As part of her acquisition strategy, Valerie carefully examined the project performance records of the ANSWER Partners. She stated, "ANSWER was chosen for this task because of the high

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Kennedy is highly sought after for his litigation savvy and settlement negotiation techniques. The ANSWER SDC is excited to add Mr. Dobson and Mr. Kennedy to the team lineup.

Welcome aboard, Gentlemen!

...and the Survey Says...

Bill Archambeault

In October 2002, the ANSWER SDC conducted a survey across a sampling of some 200 ANSWER clients to assess their need for adding Section 508 training to the Solutions Edu curriculum. Response to the survey was an overwhelming "thumbs up," as participants expressed a keen desire to understand the ramifications and intricacies of Section 508. To respond to this call, the ANSWER SDC will be adding a Section 508 training course to the Solutions Edu repertoire this fiscal year! ITMs, external clients, and industry partners are invited to attend – see the ANSWER website (<http://answer.gsa.gov>) for start dates. The ANSWER SDC thanks the survey participants for their response and comments.

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caliber of the contractors and their proven success record." Valerie went on to stress the import of this project indicating that it is one of CDC's most visible initiatives.

Computer Sciences Corporation was awarded this task to create a single web-based, near-real-time, and consistent approach to the collection, analysis, and reporting of health data. Through NEDSS, the nation will improve its ability to identify and track emerging infectious diseases, monitor disease trends, and respond quickly to the threat of bio-terrorism.



Valerie Kalscheur

The ANSWER SDC would like to thank Valerie Kalscheur for all her hard work on this and other projects, and congratulate her on her promotion to Domestic Customer Action Team (CAT) Leader in the FTS Office of Sales.

Excluded Parties? "Inquiring Minds Want to Know"!

Bill Archambeault

This year the Office of Federal Procurement issued guidance regarding the award of orders under indefinite-delivery contracts to vendors that are debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment. Though Contracting Officers exercise a high level of inquiry at contract award to ensure awardees are eligible for contract award, there still exists a post-award requirement to ascertain on-going eligibility for task order awards. At a minimum, a review of the List of Parties Excluded From Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs is in order. In addition to OFPP's guidance, this issue is also addressed in GSAM 509.405-1.

If you have questions or need information concerning- 1) actions taken when a potential contractor is on the list, 2) awards made to contractors already on the list, 3) documentation for a current contractor added to the list, or 4) searching the list, please feel free to contact the ANSWER SDC.

Rights of the Government Under the Inspection Clause

Ron Heald

Suddenly a contractor has been found to be unqualified or has failed to comply with the contract requirements. Does the Government have rights? Yes. Although the Government's rights under a time and material contract are limited, they do exist and for good reason. With many task orders in the IT arena labor-hour or time and material based, it is important to know and understand the issues and expanse of task monitoring and inspection.

Withholding Profit. The relevant clause for monitoring is the Inspection Clause, FAR 52.246-6, Time and Material and Labor Hour. Under this clause, if correction or replacement work is required (due to failure to meet contract requirements), the hourly rate under the Payments Clause excludes the portion of the rate attributable to profit. A Contracting Officer (CO) does not have the option to waive this deduction. Therefore, the individual assigned to monitor performance, usually the Contracting Officer's Representative/Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COR/COTR), must enforce this provision, or refer it to the CO for enforcement. Failure to enforce this provision means that all hours earn profit, regardless of performance, and therefore puts the contract into a cost plus percentage-of-cost basis. Cost plus percentage-of-cost is the one contract type specifically prohibited from Government contracting.

Correcting Performance at no Cost. The Government has one additional right under the Inspection Clause. Under FAR 52.246-6 (h), the Government may require the contractor to correct performance without cost to the Government, if the problem is due to- (1) Fraud, lack of good faith, or willful misconduct on the part of the contractor's managerial personnel; or (2) The conduct of contractor's employee is habitually careless or the employee is unqualified. Therefore, the clause allows the Government to identify unqualified employees and get relief. Knowledge is powerful and you are encouraged to check out the contract provisions. Clauses are available at <http://www.arnet.gov>, and in the ANSWER contract at <http://answer.gsa.gov>.

October Events

Date: 10/16

Location: Region 9, San Diego
Event: Reg. Program Meeting

Date: 10/17

Location: Region 9, Oakland
Event: Reg. Program Meeting

Date: 10/17

Location: Las Vegas
Event: National Indian Country Telecom Infrastructure Consortium

Date: 10/22

Location: Region 4, Atlanta
Event: Reg. Program Meeting

Date: 10/28-11/1

Location: Region 9, San Diego
Event: Solutions Edu, Contract Administration

Date: 10/24

Location: Region 3, Philadelphia
Event: Reg. Program Meeting

Date: 10/29

Location: Region 5, Chicago
Event: Reg. Program Meeting

Date: 10/30

Location: FedSim
Event: Reg. Program Meeting

ANSWER POCs

Thelma Riusaki
ANSWER PCO
510.637.3880

Mimi Bruce
Director, Client Service
510.637.3890

Paul Martin
Client Service Manager
510.637.3884

Ron Heald
Director, Bus Development
360.697.4916

Jill Schillinger
Bus Development Manager
858.530.3177

Bill Archambeault
DSL¹, Safeguard PCO
858.530.3176

Wayne Dobson
Sr. Contracting Officer
858-537-2204

Paul Kennedy
Sr. Contracting Officer
858-530-3181

Sherrie Householder
ANSWER PM
858.537.2210

Ann Gladys
Director, ANSWER SDC
858.537.2201